



FEMA

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Fact Sheet

FEMA Recovery Strategy: Debris Removal Operations

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a strategic framework for providing debris removal assistance in support of a Presidentially declared emergency or major disaster. Most notably, this strategy:

- Summarizes the *key actions* to be taken (or considered) both pre- and post-landfall;
- Establishes the *roles, responsibilities, and expectations* of federal, state and local governments, as they apply to debris removal management and coordination; and
- Outlines *Direct Federal Assistance* and the terms of delivery.

Pre-event Preparation and Planning: The strategy calls for state and local governments to take principal responsibility for coordinating and managing debris removal operations, with eligible costs reimbursable from the federal government under the Public Assistance program.

- State and local officials are encouraged to plan for - and expected to manage - their own debris removal operations following an emergency or major disaster.
- Plans should be established for pre-event contracts and/or arrangements with local or regional debris removal contractors, to assure the immediate availability of coordinated debris removal support following a disaster.

Debris Contractor Registry: To assist state and local governments identify available debris removal contractors, FEMA created a web-based Debris Removal Contractor Registry.

- State and local governments, tribal authorities and other eligible Public Assistance applicants such as private nonprofit organizations can use the database registry to find contractors who can do the debris removal work they need.
- Information is provided and maintained by contractors and their representatives, and allows contractors to describe the equipment and staff they have available.

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Direct Federal Assistance: Direct Federal Assistance (DFA), usually in the form of US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) support, is designed to address situations where the level of debris is catastrophic in scale, or where the capabilities of the state and/or local government to effectively manage such operations are overwhelmed.

- Duration of DFA mission assignments for debris removal will be limited to 60 days from the disaster declaration date.
- State cost-share for debris removal costs (applied equally to both state-managed and DFA missions) will be directed by the President.

Pre-Landfall: Upon a Presidential declaration of a pre-landfall Emergency, FEMA will provide technical assistance and planning support on debris-related issues to the State Emergency Operations Center to effectively coordinate and manage debris removal operations, and identify any potential need for DFA.

Post-Landfall: Upon a Presidential declaration of a post-landfall Emergency or Major Disaster, FEMA will provide Debris Planning and Response Teams to the State Emergency Operations Center to provide technical assistance and planning support on debris-related issues.

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